

The MAG's Five Favorite Questions

As you explore the rest of Meleko's exhibit here at the MAG, please keep these questions in mind:

1. *What do you see?*
2. *Does this remind you of anything?*
3. *What do you think is going on here?*
4. *What information would help you make better sense of it?*
5. *Who are you as a viewer? How does this influence the way you see things?*



Created by Sara Kowalski and Marta Kontny at the University of Rochester.

Special thanks to Stella Wang and Andrew Cappetta.

Front cover (left) detail from *Sikhuselo Sembumbulu*, Front cover (right) detail from *Graase-Mans*

A Journey through *Pax Kaffraria* *a guide for family visitors*

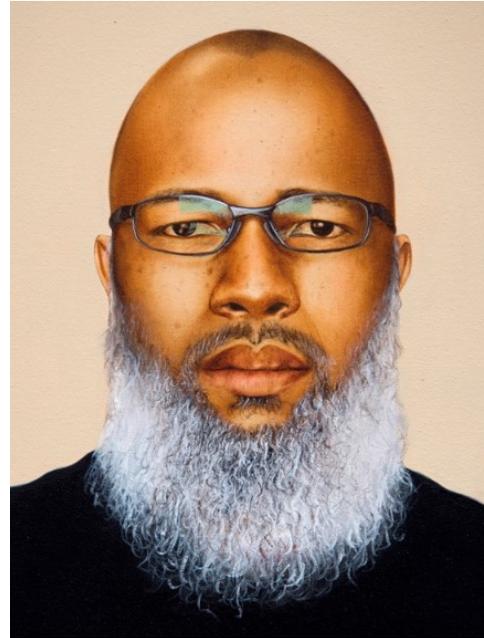


About Meleko Mokgosi & His Work

You're probably wondering what "Pax Kaffraria" is. Simply put, it is a project about the everyday life of people who live in countries in southern Africa.

- *Which countries make up southern Africa?*
- *What do you already know about this region?*
- *Do you know of any movies or books about or sports teams from southern Africa?*

Meleko Makgosi, the painter, grew up in Botswana and now lives in New York. His paintings are about what bothers and inspires him about his homeland.



Untitled (2016). Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

The everyday life of the people in these paintings may be similar or different to what you are used to.

- *Do think you wear similar or different clothes? Eat similar/ different food? Live in similar/different houses? Learn similar/different things in school?*

Many countries in southern Africa were European colonies only 50-60 years ago and only recently became independent. That means Meleko grew up in a country undergoing a lot of change.

- *What is a colony? What is colonization?*
- *What do you think it would be like to grow up in a changing nation?*

In the space below, please (1) Sketch your favorite painting from the exhibit, (2) Draw your own Meleko-style drawing about your own neighborhood, or (3) Write a story, poem, or song about one of the pieces.

Ruse of Disavowal

Oil and charcoal (2010-2013)
Courtesy of the artist and the Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles



Detail of *Ruse of Disavowal*

In southern Africa—like in a lot of places—some people hunt for food, others for protection, and still others for sport. The dog in this image is a Rhodesian Ridgeback, which was bred to hunt lions especially. This breed, as well as the Boerboel, were imported to the region during colonization and appear a lot in Meleko's paintings.

- *What is happening in this painting?*
- *What is the relationship between the people? Between the people and the animals?*
- *What do you think is the message of this piece?*

Fully Belly II

Oil and charcoal (2010-2014)
Collection of Tracey and Phillip Riese, New York

Behind the black layer of paint, you can see a group of girls wearing school uniforms with arms crossed.

- *Do you wear a uniform for your school? If so, do you like wearing uniforms?*
- *If you look closely, can you see the girls' faces? If so, what can you read from their expressions?*
- *Why do you think Meleko decided to paint the black layer?*



Detail of *Fully Belly II*

Sikhuselo Sembumbulu [Bulletproof]

2010-2012, Oil and charcoal on canvas
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Purchase.

The man in the chair is wearing a modern suit and a traditional-looking headdress that Meleko designed himself.

- *What comes to mind when you look at the headdress?*
- *What does it mean to be "bulletproof"? Why do you think Meleko gave this chapter this title?*
- *What are the connections between the people in the paintings?*



Detail of *Sikhuselo Sembumbulu*

Graase-Mans [Frontiersman]

2010-2014, Oil and charcoal on canvas
Courtesy of the artists and the Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles



Detail of *Graase-Mans*

Southern Africa is a very diverse region whose people descend from native African groups, European settlers, and Indian and Indonesian too.

- *Where are the people in the painting? What are they doing?*
- *What do you think are the connections between them?*
- *Do you know what places your family is from?*